

T H E

AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

VOL. XXXIV.] WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER, 1858.

[No. 11.

From Liberia.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF PRESIDENT BENSON AND OTHERS.

WE stated in our last number, that the return of the "Stevens" brought testimony to vindicate the Government and people of Liberia from any participation in the slave trade. Those who have read what appeared on this subject, in our number for August, will see little cause for such vindication, since the constitution, laws, and public sentiment of Liberia have ever been arrayed against this trade. Indeed the whole history of the French voluntary emigration system, and the proceedings of the Liberian Government against it, as given in the last message of President Benson, with the previous and subsequent acts of the Legislature on the subject, rendered the attempt to reconcile the charges of the captain of the *Regina Cœli* of a participation by the authorities of Liberia in the slave trade, with probable truth, absurd. From documents before us, the course pursued by the Liberian Government in this case appears to

have been just, honorable and dignified. It has transmitted to the French Government a full statement of the facts in relation to the *Regina Cœli*, and solemnly protested against the act of P. Pointel, Esq., "Chief of the Staff of the French Naval Division of the West Coast of Africa," for forcibly seizing and conveying away from the harbor of Monrovia this vessel while in lawful possession of the marshal of the Republic, and appealed to the honor and magnanimity of the Emperor for justice and redress. On this subject, under date of Monrovia, August 14th, 1858, **PRESIDENT BENSON says:**

"The French are trying to make a false impression in England and among civilized nations, respecting the conduct of this Government—they have resorted to downright falsehood. They state that they paid this Government \$1,564 for passports for emigrants—that this Government urged Captain Simon to procure the emigrants within the jurisdiction of this Republic, and that this Government was party to a

contract to furnish 400 emigrants to Captain Simon in two months, and much more such —. The fact is, he never paid one cent to this Government for passports to emigrants, but would have had to pay fifty cents for each passport granted by Government to those whom we were satisfied voluntarily emigrated, whenever he applied to clear his ship, when every emigrant was to be examined most rigidly in this port, and the Secretary of State would grant passports only to those who would then declare, each for himself, that his emigration was voluntary; and Captain Simon was told by me, in presence of H. M. Consul and other gentlemen, that on no other terms would he be allowed to engage in the business on our coast, and if he took exceptions, he had better leave and go elsewhere. How could passport money be received before we had ascertained (when he applied to clear his vessel) if he succeeded in procuring any voluntary emigrants? Not a cent has been paid for passports.

"He was required, according to our revenue laws, to pay the duties on such merchandize as he expected to land within the jurisdiction of this Republic, which with the tonnage duties amounted to between three and four hundred dollars—I think three hundred and eighty-five dollars—and this was paid to the Collector of Customs, the same as other vessels have to pay, and is every penny he ever paid to this Government. He was never urged to procure his emigrants here, and the idea that the Government was a party to the contract to furnish emigrants is preposterous."

From President S. A. BENSON.

GOVERNMENT-HOUSE,

Monrovia, July, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to

acknowledge the receipt by the M. C. Stevens last month of your two favors of April 29th and 30th, accompanied with a copy of a letter and catalogue of seeds from the Hon. Commissioner of the United States Patent Office; all of which I have perused with much interest. The seeds mentioned have been gratefully received, in good condition, and equally distributed among the Americo-Liberian inhabitants of the four counties of this Republic. I will specially cause, under my own supervision, collections of seed to be made in this country, and sent in exchange to that office, as requested; and shall be most happy to continue the exchange, regularly, so long as I may remain in office. All seed, however, sent in future for us, should be so arranged as to reach us between the first of December and the first of March. March and April are our principal planting months.

I have had also the pleasure of receiving, on the 6th instant, your letters of the 3d and 4th of February, accompanied with copies of resolutions passed by the Board of the American Colonization Society at their last annual meeting, intended to have been sent by the U. S. Ship Marion, which arrived here about the 1st of June, but came by the U. S. Brig Bainbridge early this month. I regret that the latter documents did not reach me earlier, so as to afford me more time before the departure of the M. C. Stevens, to give the subjects, therein contained, that reflection which their very great importance demands. As regards the policy of forming settlements by the Society up the Niger and in the Yoruba district, there are in Liberia conflicting opinions, the same no doubt as exist on the subject among the friends of our race in the United States. I cannot, for reasons already intimated, attempt to particu-

larize in the very hasty opinions and views I may herein venture to express on the subject.

I highly appreciate the enlarged, generous and magnanimous views of the Board respecting the extension of the field of their philanthropic labors and operations to Central Africa. I cannot do otherwise than rejoice, in the prospect of any feasible enterprize, that contemplates good to Africa and her millions of sable sons. I am of opinion, however, that the cost of prosecuting the contemplated enterprize, that is, the expense of settling immigrants on the healthy banks of the Niger or in the Yoruba district, will more than double the expense of settling a similar number in Liberia. I am sure that the cost of prosecuting such an enterprize will be duly counted up by your very judicious and experienced Committee, before any permanent steps are taken; and I shall rejoice, if in so doing, they find their present resources, and prospective income, such as to justify it. If their means will warrant it, I hold that the increased expense should be regarded as a secondary consideration, when compared with the noble enterprize of, and the incalculable benefits that would result from, permanently planting civilization and Christianity in the heart of Africa, and the reaching and occupying of a country and climate said to be more salubrious than this, though I doubt its being more healthy than our interior. I think with your able Committee, that the first step taken should be that of sending a competent agent, as soon as may be prudent, to gather all necessary information, from and to make arrangements in, that section of country preparatory to permanent operations, whenever circumstances justify them. I do not think the direct overland route from our seaboard to

the western boundary of the district of Yoruba, is more than six or seven hundred miles; and it strikes me that it would be a very judicious plan, if the missionary societies of the several denominations, which for years have been so devotedly operating in Liberia, and any others that might be disposed to co-operate,—if peculiarly able,—would commence with the view of establishing a line of missions from this to Yoruba, and from Yoruba extending in this direction, with the view of forming a junction, looking to and fervently praying for the speedy arrival of the period when a line would be completed of healthy and efficient mission stations, connecting a large area of territory, embracing a population of millions, and imparting to them the blessings of the Gospel of peace. As weak and as poor as this government is, I feel sure it would promptly co-operate in every possible way, according to its ability.

I do not mean by this, that the usual operations of the different societies in Liberia should be abandoned or curtailed; I am too sensible of the vast good these societies have been and are still doing within the jurisdiction of this Republic, and I would by no means have their operations here abated. It is my opinion that a harmonious understanding might be had among the several Christian denominations and their missionaries, each to occupy a prescribed distance along this route as so many detachments of one common army, united together in one common cause, having the same grand object in view, because they have one Lord, one faith and one spiritual baptism. The fact is, this government, the Colonization Society, and the Missionary Societies, though distinct in name and differing somewhat in the mode and

sphere of their respective operations, have the same grand object in view; they adopt and prosecute various and distinct measures for the consummation of the same great object. I beg that these remarks in reference to a plan of missionary operations, which have incidentally grown out of a few thoughts on the feasibility and judiciousness of forming the contemplated Central African settlement, will be regarded by you simply as humble suggestions, (and not as dictatorial nor presumptively advisory,) of which, I will be pleased if you take no further notice, if you think proper.

Another reason why I shall feel rejoiced when the means of the Society will warrant the operating in Central Africa contiguous to the great Niger, is, that European nations may be prevented from an entire monopoly of the valley of the Niger and parts adjacent. Her B. M. Government has been very kind to Liberia: so far from manifesting a disposition to restrict the area of our territory to prescribed boundaries, that magnanimous nation has most generously facilitated in various ways the extension of our borders, for which we will ever retain a grateful remembrance. But, sir, it may be that a Pharaoh will arise that will not know Joseph! A generously disposed ministry of this year is no guarantee of a similarly disposed one the next year. Her Majesty's Government and subjects—if I am rightly informed—are planting trading establishments along the Niger, reaching, as I learn, a higher latitude than ours. These trading stations will very likely (almost certainly) grow into settlements—foreign settlements—with an acquired or assumed expansion of territory, reaching from the Niger half or more than half the distance to our seaboard, monopolizing all the great

caravan routes and trade of Central Africa, and, in fact, drawing the resources from at least the northeastern sections of our present territory; and thus, when we and the friends of Liberia discover in the future our geographical jurisdiction and condition, when we look around us for a sufficient area upon which to settle the millions of our race in the United States and elsewhere who will unquestionably seek homes in Liberia, we will find ourselves so jammed and hemmed in on our north and south by the English and French, on our east by the English, and on our west by the Atlantic Ocean, as to be circumscribed into a narrow slip of land running a few hundred miles parallel with the coast, altogether, an area inadequate for the consummation of the grand object originally contemplated by those good, great and wise men who projected the noble African Colonization scheme.

I am fully aware that the prospect of the United States Government co-operating or extending any aid of consequence in furtherance of this great cause has for the last few years been very gloomy, and perhaps it has never been more so than at the present; and no doubt the sanguine remarks I ventured to express on that subject in my last message are regarded by many as fanatical; but, sir, I feel an assurance almost amounting to a certainty, that a great change in the feelings and actions of the United States Government and its citizens will have taken place within the next six years. *

* * * * * You may rest assured, sir, that it will not be long before the policy will irresistibly vindicate itself, and will be adopted, for operating on an extensive scale for the amelioration of the condition of the colored people of the United States, and for colonizing them in

Liberia, or somewhere in Africa." The present gloom is nothing: it is usually darkest just before the break of day. A brighter day will soon dawn: sooner and brighter than the most sanguine had expected. And it was my firm belief in this speedy change of feeling and sentiment, that prompted the sanguine remarks in my last message on that subject. If I should in the future, find myself to have been mistaken, I shall at least have the consolation of knowing that millions (equally sanguine) have been mistaken before me, and, consequently, mine will not be an isolated case. From several letters recently received (some this month, via England) from prominent colored men in the Northern States and Canada, I am happy to find, that the spirit of emigration to Liberia, or to found a new colony elsewhere on this western coast, or in Central Africa, is rapidly increasing: before many years they will voluntarily emigrate by hordes, and very many of them at their own expense, either to the present Liberia, or to some new colony founded by themselves on this coast or in Central Africa, a few hundred miles only from us, and destined to be united with us in a very short time, if not at the commencement.

I was much pleased to notice the action of the Board with reference to the formation of the New Jersey interior settlement in the mountain region of Bassa. I hope that enterprise, after such a lapse of time, will be speedily prosecuted: the people of that county are in high expectation of it. You inquire what would be the cost of a good road? that is somewhat difficult to determine; but I am satisfied, if the Society will contribute twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) towards it, this government and the inhabitants of that county, aborigines as well as Amer-

icans-Liberians, will supply the deficit either in money or in labor. If I were settled at home, I could get a large portion of that work done voluntarily and gratuitously by natives. The construction of a good wagon road should be among your first operations. You also ask, whom do I recommend to take the charge of that settlement, and to supervise your operations there for the first six or twelve months. I have spent much anxious thought on the subject for the last six or eight months, and must confess that I have been and am still puzzled to give you an answer. I feel that so much depends on the judicious and successful management of that settlement, with respect to the future rapid improvement and prosperity of that county, as well as to the great Colonization cause in the United States, that I am necessitated to hesitate before suggesting any one; and even after I have made such recommendation, it may not be adopted by your Committee in consequence of a counter influence.

* * * * *

If I were not convinced of the necessity of commencing that settlement at once, I would advise you to defer operations there until the expiration of my term, when, in supervising its formation, I could save your Society considerable expense. But, sir, it will not do to defer; better make a beginning without delay. Emigrants will press on you for passage to Liberia, in less than three years time, more numerously and urgently than ever before. Let there be healthy and fertile sections of country opened in each county of this Republic for their location; by all means let it be done, and whatever service, amidst my pressing engagements, I can be of, in this instance, by way of counsel, &c., will be render-

ed cheerfully. The Society will never regret the formation of that settlement. The road to Seymour's interior mission passes through the site on which that settlement will be formed, which when formed will be twenty-five miles on the route to Pessa. Caravans of from one to two hundred men, laden with trade, are constantly passing and repassing this route, the number of which would increase incalculably by the increased security that settlement would afford them in traveling to Bexley, Buchanan and Edina, for purposes of trade. The exports of that county (palm oil, camwood, &c. &c.,) equal those of any other two counties in this Republic. The next interior settlement in that county can, after the expiration of a few years, be safely made, out at Pessa. It will form of its own accord, of voluntary settlers attracted thither by the wealth and superiority of that section of country. Once break the ice by forming a good interior settlement there, and the people in that county will hardly expect you to be at much, if at any, expense, in the formation of future settlements; they will simply ask you to send them a plenty of good immigrants, and they will spread and multiply flourishing interior settlements of their own accord.

Your favor of the 31st of May, per Ocean Eagle, reached me safely this week. I presume your agent will write you fully and satisfactorily in regard to the statements the emigrant Watson is said to have made to some one in Virginia on his voluntary return there into slavery.

Sir, whenever a vindication from this country is reasonably required, you shall have it freely and fully; but in this case, Liberians consider it actually too intolerably degrading to take up pen against that soul-less creature and his deluders.

Whenever the President of this Republic is charged by a reputable person with either engaging in or conniving at the slave trade, he will not hesitate to expose the malignant falsehoods of such a libeller, and to let all know who are concerned to know, what are his sentiments and feelings on the subject of human oppression in all or any of its phases; * * * * and perhaps I might then be induced to amplify to an extent in the exposition of my sentiments on that subject, that would not be received with much relish by many, especially those editors who have been so very diligent in publishing and favorably noticing the libel.

Respecting farm lands at Cape Mount for immigrants, I beg to state, that it is deemed highly imprudent at present to lay off and have immigrants occupy a farming district some six or eight miles up the river or bay, (the distance necessary to go for that purpose,) until the Americo-Liberian population is sufficient, numerically and efficiently, for self-protection. The corporate dimensions of the city of Robertsport are three miles square at present, and there are contiguous to it no less than one hundred thousand acres of land perfectly accessible. Your agent up there is authorized, under the supervision of the General Superintendent, to have as much of this land surveyed into farm lots as may be necessary for apportionment to such immigrants as are entitled according to law, and as many immigrants as choose to do so have been repeatedly told from the beginning that they are at liberty to cultivate unappropriated public lands until such time as their farm lands are assigned them. I spent two days up in the country at Cape Mount, as early as March before last, for the purpose of making se-

lection of a suitable farming district, which I did, and arranged for its occupancy by settlers, so soon as the population of Robertsport, as aforesaid, would justify it. I have not the least doubt but that the Rev. Mr. Cowan was sincere and was actuated by the purest motives when he urged here, as he has no doubt since done in the United States, the immediate occupancy of that district by immigrants; but, sir, I must be permitted to say, that if Liberians have not, after so many years experience in such matters, profited by that experience, it speaks very badly for our judgment, almost hopelessly so. We do not look at the matter in the abstract, but in all its bearings, and take into consideration all the probable consequences.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for the papers you kindly forwarded, and for the many other attentions I have received at your hands. With the exception of scarcity of money, we have peace and plenty, and that is a great blessing. Our farming interest is progressing very, very encouragingly.

With my best wishes for your personal welfare and for the continued success of the great cause to which you have devoted the greatest part of your useful life, I beg to subscribe myself, your most obedient servant.

From the Hon. JOHN HANSON.

EDINA, BASSA, July 23, 1858.

"I sit down to write you this communication, after looking over the African Repository and the account of the forty-first annual meeting of the American Colonization Society. I read the interesting and impressive address delivered by the Rev. Philip Slaughter, who introduced his remarks by declaring that 'America in Africa is the solution of the problem of Africa in America.' I think this a very appropriate sen-

tence, for the welfare of Liberians is in the hearts of the American philanthropists. I honestly believe that the God of Nations has blessed their labors so successfully as to plant a nation on the western shores of Africa, and give it a standing among the great family of nations, which should be a great gratification to the colored race throughout the world, and they should appreciate it to the honor of the God of Nations. God has highly favored their benevolence by his Providence in sending the Word of God to the heathen of this land, so long covered with darkness, idolatry and superstition. A light has arisen here, and is diffusing itself in the interior, carrying with it civilization and Christianity to different tribes; and this must gratify our friends, American Christians, that have been and are still engaged in the great work. I endorse the sentiment, 'that Africa is in America and America in Africa,' jointly building up the empire of a Christian Government on these long idolatrous shores, which has been the instrument of putting down the slave trade.

"I, as one of the early settlers in this country, have strictly adhered to the fundamental principles of the American Colonization Society in planting colonies on these shores, and since our independence have not forgotten the address, soon after the organization of the Colonization Society, delivered in the Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, by our venerable friend to the cause, the Hon. CHARLES F. MERCER, of Virginia, and also by FRANCIS KEY, Esq. of Washington, setting forth the great objects of the Society; and I thank God I have lived long enough in Africa to see those principles carried out, and a young nation springing up here, to carry out the benevolent purposes of the friends

of the cause, and invite our race to partake of the benefits that may accrue to them and to their children. I would that our enlightened colored people in America would throw away their petty notions of being anything more than they are in the land they live in, when such a prospect invites them to join their brethren in Africa, where they may enjoy the great national benefits offered them in the Republic of Liberia. If this will not arouse the man of color in North America to activity, I know not what will; for we Liberians are very happy in our situation, are proprietors of our own soil, which is abounding in the richest productions to render us comfortable; legislate for ourselves, and govern ourselves, in all our judicial and domestic relations."

The Rev. EDWARD WEBB, a missionary, writes from Grand Cape Mount, August 4th, 1858:

"There has been much said about this settlement at Cape Mount, and but little or no truth in all that I have heard about it. It has been said we are engaged in the slave trade, but it is not so; that the emigrants are ill treated on their arrival, this is not so; also, that the agent of the American Colonization Society sells the provisions of the people, but I do not think that is so;—I take this agent, Mr. R. Stryker, to be a zealous Christian. It has been said, an agent of the Society on board the ship sold provisions. I was on board at the time when this is said to have occurred, November, 1847. The Kentucky Agent was on board, but sold nothing, but often talked with all the emigrants, and told them not to spend their money, —that they would need it; and I told them the same; and most of them brought all the money they

had here, and are doing well. And I must say those who came out with us, and Cape Mount, are improved more than any man would think for, since the date of my arrival. If the Kentucky Agent could lift up his head and see over here, he would be astonished at the improvements since he left us."

The young Liberian from whose letter we make the following extracts, when the Editor of this Journal visited that Republic in 1849, was in the school of B. V. R. James, Esq., and a very successful student. His address to the writer in the name of the school excited expectations of his future distinction. He is now, we believe, private secretary to President Benson, and promises not to disappoint the hopes which his early abilities inspired. He is the son of the Hon. Elijah Johnson, who was one of the company which sailed in the first ship, the *Elizabeth*, to found the colony, now the Republic of Liberia.

From H. R. W. JOHNSON.

"MONROVIA, Aug. 4th, 1858.

"Sometimes I am impressed with a feeling, as of inspiration, when contemplating the future of Liberia and Africa, that causes me to become prophetic; and I can almost pierce the darkness that surrounds Africa and the race, and witness the dawn of a glorious morning that shall usher in our jubilee. I think at times that even now that morning has begun to dawn, and that soon the sun will arise with heat and brilliancy, and spread his glorious influences all over this continent.

"But when I consider the great

work to be accomplished, and how almost unavailing is human effort, I almost sink in spirit; and were it not that God has declared that this work *shall* be accomplished, I would sit down in despair and weep over the wreck of my cherished hopes.

"God has certainly seconded the efforts of philanthropists; and this should teach us that the work has been marked out by Him, and encourage us to greater diligence, knowing that He does not purpose in vain.

"We still hope in Liberia; indeed it is our only hope. We have rejoiced at the gratifying result we have witnessed here, and rejoice in anticipation at the more pleasing ones we expect to see in future. And although at times a cloud seems to pass over our heads, looking pregnant with vials of wrath and instruments of destruction, we know that it is intended to drive us to a lesson we have been so reluctant to learn, and cause us to look beyond the surface into the nature and design of things.

"Our celebration is just over,—the 26th of July. There seems to have been a spirit to partake in celebrating that day, more generally manifested, in the different settlements on the St. Paul's, than ever before. I had the honor to be the orator for Monrovia; and selected a subject that I thought would suit the times and the circumstances of the country; it was, *On what depends the security of our institutions.* My oration has not been put in print.

"Not knowing many persons in the United States, I have to request of you that you will recommend to me some person that could forward me such books as I might desire to order from the United States from time to time."

From Mrs. M. A. Ricks, (formerly Mrs. Zion Harris.)

"CLAY-ASHLAND, Aug. 1st, 1858.

"I rejoice to hear of the powerful work of the Lord in America, and pray that the day will soon break in Liberia. Truly the Lord has done great things for us here, yet there is room—there are many out of the Ark, and the natives that are around us need help. Oh that the Gospel may take the wings of the morning and fly to the utmost parts of the world! this is my prayer. We are still journeying to the Land of Rest. The different churches are moving slowly at present. But the clouds are big with mercy, and shall break if we are faithful.

"I do not feel discouraged; in my judgment, Liberia is still improving, though it may seem slow to a great many, yet I think it is gaining strength as fast as a child can. The farmers generally are improving in farming. I believe there has been more corn raised this year than has been for many years in Liberia; if there ever was so much before I do not know of it. They have raised a great deal of rice, cassada, potatoes, and eddoes; so there is no scarcity of bread. We try to raise meat: I have two milch cows, that afford milk and butter; there are also many others who have the same. We raise sheep, turkeys, ducks, fowls, &c., and try to keep hogs, and do have some. If we are industrious there is no danger of starving in Liberia. True, we are not so proficient in putting up our pork and bacon as you are, and have to get yours; and yet we can salt up all we raise, and as much more if we had it. * * * There are several families preparing cotton to weave cloth—I among the rest, am spinning a piece. I think that in a few years there will be large quantities of cloth made in Li-

beria. There are some who order wheels from abroad, while others have them made in Liberia; and looms are made here, &c. Many persons have planted acres of cotton, trying if possible to raise it in abundance. * * * I am a true Liberian, and stand up for it; for the Lord has given us this land, and He has blessed us, and who can curse it? nobody. I send you the gun with which Gotorah was killed. Mr. Harris, who thought a great deal of it, named it after this chief, *Gotorah*, whose scull is in the office in America, where I think and I believe it will be kept in remembrance of the courage of my former husband when I am dead. It is for his sake that I send this gun."

From the Rev. H. B. STEWART.

Mr. STEWART emigrated from Savannah some ten years ago, and was a member of the Independent Congregational Church in that city, under the pastoral charge of the late Rev. Dr. Preston. He has been very zealously engaged in building up a Congregational Church at Sinou, and repeatedly appealed for aid to Christians of the Congregational Churches in this country. He is now striving to complete a suitable house of worship, and we shall be glad to send him any aid that the friends of the Redeemer may be pleased to entrust to us, for this object, most near to his heart.

" GREENVILLE, Sinou County,
" July 16th, 1858.

" Your very interesting letter came safe to hand by your excellent ship, the M. C. Stevens. It afforded me much pleasure to hear of the display of Divine Grace in your much fa-

vored land of Gospel privileges. *

* * * The difficulties that attend such a display of a sanctifying and lasting visitation of Divine Grace upon the lives of the people with us, you have not as a general thing; that is, the distinguishing of the nature and practical knowledge of true godliness; or in the language of that most eminent servant of the Lord, the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, to distinguish between saving experience and affection. I am happy to say, that many of our brethren in the ministry labor to impress upon the minds of their people, that a right and correct knowledge of Divine Truth is essential to salvation. This is in strict conformity to the commission given by the great head of the Church: Go ye therefore and teach all nations, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The prospect cheers our hearts for the future, when we see the untiring efforts put forth by our citizens in their persevering instruction of their children. The Sabbath schools of all our churches will testify that our aim is to perpetuate the blessings and knowledge of the Christian Religion. Nor are the native children forgotten, but under the patronage of the M. E. Church are taught by the Rev. E. Ward. Rapid progress has been made by many of them; they read in their second syllable, and repeat the Lord's Prayer with perfect ease. * * * *

" So far as other matters are concerned, comparing the present with the past, we are on the improved state; there is no scarcity nor want; farming business is really better; there is in this, as in all new countries, those that are willing to sell their birthright for a morsel of bread.

* * * And until our race shall know how to appreciate civil, religious, and political privileges, there

will be that longing after the flesh pots of Egypt. The mandate is unalterable, 'By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread.'

"And now in conclusion:—Suffer me to acknowledge the packages of papers you were pleased to send. I was completely dry for the want of something to refresh my mind; you know how much we stand in need of them in this far-off land.

"I think you, through the multiplicity of business, have forgotten to press the claims of our church on our friends. I suggested to you in one of my letters the propriety of your writing to —, as we were such great strangers. I thank you for your favorable expression in our success. But, my dear sir, without means we cannot successfully and effectually progress: the ends cannot be met without some means; to obtain this we are entirely dependent on our friends. You know the great difficulty in my leaving here for that purpose. All our letters seem as yet to be unavailing."

From Rev. Wm. C. BURKE.

We have an interesting letter from the Rev. Wm. C. BURKE, of Clay-Ashland, from which we make the following extracts. His statement of the affair of the mutiny on board of the *Regina Coeli* is more particular than anything we have seen.

"I am truly happy to learn by your letter, and papers sent me, that there is such a wonderful display of God's power and grace felt and seen throughout the United States; and since it is so universal, I sincerely trust that the power of sin and satan may be so destroyed that the Kingdom of our Lord and his Christ may be built up in every part of the land. The churches everywhere in Liberia

are in a rather cold state. I sincerely hope and trust that a cloud may rise for good in this our barren land, and a gracious shower of God's grace may be poured out on all of our churches, and many may be brought into the fold of Christ; such as eternally shall be saved. Our Government has been lately thrown into a state of excitement and trouble by a French ship, purporting to be an emigrant ship, seeking emigrants for the Island of Bourbon—which ship is a slaver to all intents and purposes. She has been running up and down the coast for some time, and I have no doubt but that she has done a good business in the slave trade. Nevertheless, the Great King who rules upon earth among the children of men, seems to be overruling the cunning craftiness of men, that their sins may find them out. I have no doubt but that you have heard all about it before this time, yet I thought it would not be amiss to give you a few outlines as they have come to my knowledge. The matter has been examined carefully in our courts, and the natives say that they were sold by the chiefs and carried on board the ship in sticks, ropes, and in irons, against their will; and all the men say twenty-five to thirty were put below and kept in sticks and irons; those answering by the name of boys, say from 18 to 20 years of age, were permitted to go at large on deck. The ship was lying off Cape Mount when the mutiny arose, the captain being on shore with some of his officers, looking out for more slaves. The natives say, that one of them went to the cook-house to light his pipe, when the cook cut him with a knife; after which one of the crew stabbed a native man, from which he died instantly. The natives said one to the other, What

does this mean? did they not tell us that they bought us to work? and now they kill us!—Let us fight, with sticks of wood, belaying pins, and anything we can get hold of. The crew seemed to be aware that they intended to fight in their own defence; and they immediately shot down seventeen of the poor natives, at which time the fight became general—those that were below in sticks and irons came up, and soon killed all of the crew, threw them overboard, and took possession of the ship. The number of the crew that were killed was nine. The ship was brought down to Monrovia and placed in the hands of the Government. The French man-of-war has taken her away without leave, knowing that they were stronger than we. I sincerely hope that this may be the breaking up of this abominable slave traffic—particularly in this disguised form." * *

From the Rev. J. A. WILSON,
(who emigrated from Georgia.)

"ROBERTSPORT,

"Gr. Cape Mount, Aug. 5, 1858.

"I have never written for publication, and would not now but for the report of the Watson men, James and William, who left here forty days after they arrived.

"I learn their report is floating in the United States, that the agent of the Colonization Society persuaded them to purchase cheap calico, and on their arrival they were disappointed, and thereby defrauded out of their money.

"I have examined and inquired of the Watsons, and all say that they had no such advice from any one, and they got their money from the Executors, which was given to them on board the steamboat, and they have spent a part of it in building good frame houses. In regard to lands, they preferred town lots rather

than farm lands. Report said they had been ill-treated; they say the report is a falsehood, so far as concerns eating and treatment in the Receptacle. The writer of the report must admit that those who have been here seven months know as much about things here as William and James Watson, who were on shore but forty days, and who had not courage to walk over our small settlement. You know the Children of Israel longed after the flesh pots of Egypt, notwithstanding God had promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, and he who will not try to make himself satisfied with the kind providence of God, would not be satisfied if he were placed in Heaven. Those, I am disposed to think, who will not work for their own benefit, will not work for others unless forced. But if it is their faith to have some one to make them work for a living, let it be so, for as thy faith is, says the Scripture, so shall it be unto you. For my part, I do not know what William and James Watson returned for, unless it be for —. It cannot be for something to eat, for we have the sweet potato, cassada, rice, corn meal; and we can raise hogs, sheep, goats and common fowls, and a plenty of turkeys, ducks, and geese. We get from the United States, flour, meal, bacon, pork, mackarel, herring, cheese, butter, lard, and a variety of things too tedious to mention. I cannot see what a man of color should wish to go back to the United States to live for, unless he has no soul in him.

"For myself, I was raised in Augusta, Georgia, by the widow M—, and emancipated by her son, Dr. Wm. M—. I was raised as though I had been a son, and I shall love and remember these friends while memory holds its own.

"No man need fear he will starve

here, who will work. Cape Mount is as healthy as any part of Liberia, and more so than a good many. We have the best of water, and pure air, and a beautiful location. What is better

in the known world than good health! You may publish what you please of this letter: I am no scholar. My love to the old Springfield Church, Augusta, Georgia."

[From the *Spirit of Missions.*]

Foreign Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

LETTERS FROM BISHOP PAYNE.—WESTERN AFRICA.

IT will be remembered by our readers that Bishop Payne, shortly after the death of Mrs. Payne, embarked on board the brig Ocean Eagle for a voyage down the coast. This was undertaken with a view to the improvement of his health, which was much impaired by incessant toil and by the severe trials through which he had been called to pass. We are happy to find that the Bishop derived much benefit from this voyage, and that he had returned to Cape Palmas much strengthened and refreshed.

His visit to several mission stations put him in possession of many interesting facts, which are communicated in the following letters:

"**BRIG OCEAN EAGLE,**

"Bight of Benin, Jan. 12, 1858.

"*Rev. and Dear Brother:*—While approaching Cape Coast Castle, some ten days ago, I wrote you hastily, giving the reasons for my present voyage. Since that time, we have been passing along a deeply interesting part of the African coast, and you will be pleased to receive such information as I am able to glean.

"On the first day in the year, in much painfulness, I went on shore at Cape Coast Castle, and spent the day in visiting the fort, town, &c. We were carried to the shore in large canoes, made out of the trunk of the cotton tree. They were very comfortable, being wide, and provided with a sort of bulwark of plank, in front, to break off the surf

in landing. They were paddled by from ten to fifteen natives, who, from their appearance, were either slaves or pawns, these two classes making up a large portion of the population of the town around Cape Coast Castle.

"The pawns are those who have given their services to parties, in consideration of their having paid off some pressing debt; and as they often never repay, they remain pawns. The imposing appearance of the fort and town, from the sea, suffers from a near inspection. The fort, indeed, is a very fine one, mounting some hundred guns, and built in a very substantial manner. But being stuccoed, the originally white walls have become darkened, and spotted by the influence of the climate. In the fort we were shown the small room, in the third story, in which the gifted L. E. L. (late Mrs. Geo. McLean,) spent her last sad night, and the tablet in the wall to her memory. About sixteen European officers and civilians, with a chaplain, Rev. Mr. Harsel, whose acquaintance we had the pleasure of making, with one hundred black soldiers, occupy the fort, and maintain the British rule. The Governor was absent at Akkrab, another British fort, about seventy miles to the east, which he prefers to Cape Coast, and where he spends most of his time. Around the fort is Fanti town, with a population of perhaps four thousand. In front, along the sea-shore, and scattered through the

town, are many houses, built with the taste and elegance of European life. These belonged to English merchants, but I was informed that not one of these remains. These houses are all temporarily or permanently in the hands of the natives. The common style of building is of mud, with thatched roofs; and as the latter last a short time, and seemed not to be renewed in season, the rains wash them, and give to the town generally a ruinous appearance. The population is as heterogeneous as the town. Scattered through it are some hundreds who have been educated in the fort and mission schools. These dress in European style, while the great mass retain the common native costume. Nothing strikes one more forcibly than the quantity of gold dust still collected here. It is the circulating medium, and is seen in every house, in the market, in the streets; and though foreigners have been purchasing it for nearly four hundred years, still

"Afric's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sands."

"From Rev. Mr. West, Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission here, we learned, that there are connected with this mission, extending some six hundred miles along the coast, about two thousand communicants. There is only one other white missionary, besides Mr. West, connected with the mission; all other missionaries and assistants are natives. There are no other missions except the Wesleyan, at Cape Coast, or near it.

"LAGOS.

"Leaving Cape Coast Castle on the 2d instant, we next anchored off Lagos, on the Slave Coast. We were at once impressed with the growing importance of this place, by finding

at anchor thirteen ships, of various nations; amongst which were two large English steamers, and a man-of-war, whose boats boarded us as we were coming to anchor.

"Owing to my poor health and the bad landing, I did not venture on shore here. But I had the pleasure of receiving from Rev. Mr. Gollmer, one of the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society, some interesting facts in connection with this region, and the missionary operations in it.

"Lagos is one of the towns of the once powerful, but now dismembered kingdom of Benin. The people of the country are Yorubas, extending from the coast to the Niger, a distance of some 300 or 400 miles. The language is reduced to writing; and hundreds of the people carried in the vicissitudes of the slave trade to Sierra Leone, now return, and co-operating with the missionaries, scatter the seeds of Christian, civilized light, all abroad.

"Lagos, situated three miles from the mouth of the river on its eastern bank, has a native population variously estimated at from 15,000 to 30,000. It has long been one of the strongestholds of the slave trade, and now, though jealously guarded by the British cruisers and the resident Consul, it is believed that Portuguese merchants in the place, with native parties, still carry it on. The number of Europeans in the place is about fifty. I can best give you an idea of the missionary work in this region, in an extract from Mr. Gollmer's letter: 'The present condition of the Church Missionary Society's work at Lagos, and in the interior, I am thankful to be able to say, is a blessed and promising one.' The Lord prosters our handiwork, 'and we are permitted to add many souls to the number of those who shall be saved.'

"OYO AND ABBEOKUTA.

"*Oyo* (*Awyaw*, of Bowen of Georgia,) six days' journey from *Lagos* and three days from *Abbeokuta*, is our northernmost and furthest interior station in the country at present, but we contemplate shortly to occupy *Obomosho*, (*Awbecmausha*, of Bowen,) which is two days' journey beyond *Oyo*, and only one day's journey from *Ilorin*, the large Yoruba Mohammedan city on the high-road to the Niger. *Obomosho* is five days' journey from *Rabba*, on the Niger. Two days from *Abbeokuta*, on the road to *Oyo*, and only one day's journey from the latter place, we have the station *Ijayè*; and one day's journey, in an easterly direction, the station *Ibadan*, estimated as large as *Abbeokuta*. Rev. D. Hinderer, with Mrs. H., having recruited their health in Europe, arrived a short time since, and proceeded to *Ibadan*, their station; and the Rev. A. Mann, with his wife, expected to return by next mail, will resume his labors at *Ijayè*. Rev. A. Townsend, whom you may know, is my fellow-laborer at *Abbeokuta*, together with two native missionaries, Rev. Messrs. King and McCauley. The condition of *Abbeokuta* is, I may say, flourishing, as regards missionary operations, and especially as regards temporal things. Our four churches at *Abbeokuta* are attended by 1,000 converts, of whom 600 are communicants, and 400 candidates for baptism; and I may add, we have about 100 converts annually. Our Sunday schools are attended by nearly all our adult converts, and most of them read our Yoruba Scriptures. All our services, &c., are in the native language. Our day schools are attended by only about 200 children, most of the little ones being employed on their extensive and remote farms.

"The Wesleyan chapel at *Abbeo-*

kuta is also, I am told, well attended, but I cannot say by what numbers.

"The prosperity of *Abbeokuta*, in a temporal point of view, is very considerable. Great activity exists in every department, and prices of labor and produce are enhanced 100 per cent. during the past two years. There is a great abundance of the necessities of life, and much is exported to *Lagos*, and other places. In a commercial point of view, *Abbeokuta* is growing in importance, not so much on account of its good palm oil, as on account of the superior cotton cultivated there, and all about the country. It is, of course, still a beginning; however, many gins and some presses are at work, and some 700 bales of cotton were shipped for England the last few months. We pray that this prosperity in worldly things may not injure and hinder spiritual growth amongst the people.

"At *Lagos*, we have about 230 communicants, some 50 candidates, and 250 children in school. About 500 souls attend the churches here. Rev. D. Morgan, native missionary, attends one. We have much cause, also, to thank God for His mercy vouchsafed to this town, considering what it was but a few years ago,—a hell. From Rev. S. Crowther, who joined the present Niger expedition, and who is still with them in the interior, we have twice received dispatches, via *Abbeokuta*; first, by the hands of Mr. May, an officer of the R. N. employed in the expedition, who came down, via *Ilorin* and *Abbeokuta*, with dispatches for England; and the other time, only last week. You may have heard that the 'Day Spring' steamer, of the Niger expedition, was lost on rocks near *Jeba*, fifteen miles above *Rabba*; the current being too powerful in the channel, they attempted to pass higher

up. The whole party are encamped at *Jeba*, waiting for another steamer to carry on their mission to the Sultan of *Socotoo*, &c. Mr. Crowther is actively employed in acquiring languages, and preparing elementary books, &c., for future usefulness."

Second Letter from BISHOP PAYNE.

"CORISCO ISLAND,

"January 15, 1858.

"Rev. and Dear Brother:—Arrived at this pleasant mission station of the Presbyterian Board, yesterday afternoon, I learn that a boat is sent from here to meet the Fort steamer at *Fernando Po*, next week; I therefore send the communication which I had written. I am thankful to inform you that my health seems somewhat improved, and I would fain hope, that by the time I return home, in about six weeks, I shall be sufficiently recruited to remain at my post somewhat longer. Though all medical men agree in recommending a speedy removal (for a season only, I would hope) from this climate. Should it be possible, therefore, I think I ought to leave some time this year.

"Yours, in the Gospel."

Third Letter from BISHOP PAYNE.

"GABOON RIVER,

"January 18, 1858.

"Rev. and Dear Brother:—I wrote to you three days ago, from *Corisco Island*. Arriving here this afternoon, I find a small vessel about to leave to meet the steamer at *Fernando Po*, and embrace the opportunity to inform you of my safety, thus far, and I am thankful to add, of the improvement in my health. The cough, soreness of my chest, and loss of voice, which impelled to my sudden departure from home, have ceased, and my strength is gradually returning. For this God be praised. I

am much interested in the character of the people, and the missions on this part of the coast. In a communication from *Corisco*, I gave an account of the state of the missions at *Lagos*, and the interesting regions around. At *Corisco*, a beautiful island, forty miles above this place, the Presbyterian Missionaries have made an interesting beginning. They have on the island three stations, with some fifty-five native boarding scholars, whose neat, civilized appearance, contrasted most agreeably with their heathen parents and friends. The mission was commenced in 1850, but already has begun to yield a spiritual harvest. Three have been admitted to the Church, and several of the girls have lately manifested an earnest interest in the Gospel. Rev. Mr. Mackey, the oldest missionary on the island, recently made a tour one hundred and fifty miles interior. He was accompanied by Rev. Mr. Clements. They reached the highest point on *Sierra del Crystal* range of mountains, which they estimated to be six thousand feet high. Rev. Mr. Saker, Baptist Missionary, with whom I met at *Lagos*, but who has been for fifteen years laboring on the *Cameroon* river, informed me, that from his residence he had sometimes seen snow at the top of this range. A sad affair drew together most of the people on *Corisco Island*, the day we spent at the Mission House. An intemperate, imprudent English captain had been murdered, in his factory, near the mouth of *Muni* river, just opposite to *Corisco*, on the main land. Some of the murderers resided on *Corisco Island*. An English man-of-war steamer succeeded in capturing some of the chiefs of the island, and on the day referred to was anchored off the Mission House to demand the murderers. One was given up, whether the





others will be is doubtful. It is to be hoped that it will in no way disturb the friendly relations between the missionaries and natives. On board the steamer, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hutchinson, H. B. Majesty's Consul at *Fernando Po*. Mr. H. accompanied the Niger expedition in 1856. He is quite sanguine that free navigation will be

speedily opened up that interesting river. We learn here that another of the missionaries in the Gaboon has lately died—Rev. Mr. Herrick. Thus everywhere death worketh in us, but life in Christ's cause, in which we suffer. Amen.

"As ever, dear brother, yours in Christ."

(To be continued.)

[From the National Intelligencer.]

Important Departmental Decision.

THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY ON THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The subjoined Letter of the Hon. HOWELL COBB, Secretary of the Treasury, to the Collector of the Customs at Charleston, South Carolina, forbidding him to grant a clearance to a vessel "for the coast of Africa, for the purpose of taking on board African emigrants, in accordance with the United States passenger laws, and returning with the same to a port in the United States," is a document which will not only command the attention, but the approval of the great body of the American people. Mr. Cobb recites the laws on the subject of the importation of negroes for any purpose whatever, and interprets with clearness both the letter and the spirit of those laws. He correctly assumes that public opinion in almost every part of the United States favors a diminution rather than an increase of the free negro population.

Two of the Charleston papers before us admit the strength of the Secretary's argument, whilst one of them doubts his power, as the law is silent as to *emigrants*. The *Mercury* thinks the Secretary and Collector are bound to administer the laws as they are, and that there are ample means for their vindication if violated. But the *Mercury* adds:

"The whole letter shows what we have recently asserted, that to re-open the African slave trade, (and the apprentice system is that trade, only under another name,) whether wise or not, is impracticable in the Union. Even if the law of 1808 did not exist the Northern Representatives in Congress would pass laws effectually to prohibit the re-opening of this trade in any form whatever. On this account we have deprecated the agitation of the subject, as tending only to divide the South without the possibility of having any practical existence whilst the Union continues."

The Evening News attributes the application of Messrs. Lafitte & Co., who applied for this clearance, to a desire "to test, probably for others, certain supposed doubtful questions on the importation of negroes from Africa," and says:

"We not only regard the Secretary's letter conclusive on every phase and point of the question involved, and that it is the only proper and statesmanlike response to the application which the Administration could give, but looking at the case as on its face an effort to enter upon the importation of wild and savage Africans, never mind in what character or for what purpose, into this country, we deprecate and

condemn it at large, and denounce it as unworthy of those gentlemen and disrespectful to this community."

After pointing out the impolicy and impropriety of this apparent effort to evade the laws, the News adds, with emphasis, its decided condemnation:

"The Secretary's letter clearly shows that the laws of Congress, both in letter and spirit, prohibit an importation for these purposes [as slaves or apprentices] to any part of the United States. Does it become Southern citizens to undertake or countenance clandestine violations of the laws of the land? These laws are not alone Federal enactments; they are also the laws of South Carolina by her own legislation. Her act of 1835 provides that it shall not be lawful for any free negro or person of color to migrate into this State, or be brought or introduced into its limits, under any pretext whatever, by land or by water." The enactment is general as to all the African unenslaved race from any part of the world. Does it become Carolinians, and the comity of the State with the others, to violate the spirit of this law, and to attempt to introduce such interdicted persons into other States, or to bring them through other States into this?"

The Courier publishes the letter without comment.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

MAY 22, 1858.

SIR: It appears from your letter of 20th April, 1858, that application has been made to you by Messrs. E. Lafitte & Co., merchants, of Charleston, S. C., "to clear the American ship Richard Cobden, W. F. Black, master, burthen 750 31-95 tons, for the coast of Africa, for the purpose of

taking on board African emigrants, in accordance with the United States passenger laws, and returning with the same to a port of the United States."

You ask the opinion of the Department upon the propriety of your granting or refusing the application. The question is an important one, and I have delayed an answer to your letter until I could give the subject a proper examination.

The form in which this application is presented involves the question in some embarrassment. The object of the applicants must be either to import Africans, to be disposed of as slaves, or to be bound to labor or service, or else to bring them into the country like other emigrants, to be entitled on their arrival to all the rights and privileges of freemen. In either of the two first named contingencies the object would be so clearly and manifestly against the laws of the United States as to leave no room for doubt or hesitation. I deem it proper, however, to call your attention to the provisions of those laws, as they indicate very clearly the general policy of the Government on the subject of African importation.

Prior to the 1st of January, 1808, the time fixed by the Constitution when Congress would be authorized to prohibit such importation, the acts of 2d March, 1794, (1. 347,) and 10th May, 1800, (2. 70,) were passed. These laws indicate the strong opposition felt at that time to the African slave trade. The subsequent act of 2d March, 1807, (2. 426.) and 20th April, 1818, (3. 450.) as well as the acts of 3d March, 1819, (3. 532.) and 15th May, 1820, (3. 600.) show not only the promptness with which the power was exercised by Congress of prohibiting this trade to the United States, but they also bear evidence

of the stern purpose of enforcing their provisions by severe penalties and large expenditures. The legislation of the slaveholding States prior to 1808 exhibits the fact that the first steps taken for its suppression were inaugurated by them.

There is no subject upon which the statute books of our country afford more conclusive evidence than the general opposition every where felt to the continuance of the African slave trade.

By reference to the acts of 1794 and 1800, against the slave trade generally, it will be seen that their operation was confined to *slaves eo nomine*. The first section of the act of 1794 provides :

"That no citizen or citizens of the United States or foreigner, or any other person coming into or residing within the same, shall, for himself or any other person whatsoever, either as master, factor, or owner, build, fit, equip, load, or otherwise prepare any ship or vessel within any port or place of the said United States, nor shall cause any ship or vessel to sail from any port or place within the same for the purpose of carrying on any trade or traffic in *slaves* to any foreign country; or for the purpose of procuring from any foreign kingdom, place or country, the inhabitants of such kingdom, place, or country, to be transported to any foreign country, port, or place whatever to be sold or disposed of as *slaves*; and if any ship or vessel shall be so fitted out as aforesaid for the said purposes, or shall be caused to sail so as aforesaid, every such ship or vessel, her tackle, furniture, apparel, and other appurtenances, shall be forfeited to the United States, and shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted, and condemned in any of the circuit courts or district court for the district where the said ship or vessel may be found and seized."

The language of the act of 1800 is the same in this respect. Both contemplate, in general terms, the prevention of the trade in *slaves*. When, however, in 1807, and subsequent thereto, Congress undertook to prevent the importation of slaves into the United States, the language of the law was made more stringent and comprehensive. The first section of the act of 1807 provides :

"That from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight, it shall not be lawful to import or bring into the United States or the Territories thereof, from any foreign kingdom, place, or country, any negro, mulatto, or person of color, with intent to hold, sell, or dispose of such negro, mulatto, or person of color, as a slave, or to be held to service or labor."

This law seeks not only to prevent the introduction into the United States of *slaves* from Africa, but any negro, mulatto, or person of color, whether introduced as slaves, or to be held to service or labor. Whether or not the wisdom of our fathers foresaw at that early day that efforts would be made, under a pretended apprentice system, to renew the slave trade under another name, I cannot undertake to say; but the language of the law which they have left to us on the statute book leaves no doubt of the fact that they intended to provide, in the most unequivocal manner, against the increase of that class of population by immigration from Africa. No one could then have contemplated an object for which African emigrants would be brought to this country which is not clearly guarded against and forbidden by the law to which I am now referring.

It is only necessary to add that subsequent acts on the subject contain the same language. This view of the subject is strengthened by

reference to the provisions of the act of 28th February, 1803, (2,205.) The first section of that act is as follows:

"That, from and after the first day of April next, no master or captain of any ship or vessel, or any other person, shall import or bring, or cause to be imported or brought, any negro, mulatto, or other person of color, not being a native, citizen, or registered seaman of the United States, or seamen natives of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, into any port or place of the United States, which port or place shall be situated in any State which by law has prohibited, or shall prohibit, the admission or importation of such negro, mulatto, or other person of color; and if any captain or master aforesaid, or any other person, shall import or bring, or cause to be imported or brought, into any of the ports or places aforesaid, any of the persons whose admission or importation is prohibited as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every negro, mulatto, or other person of color aforesaid, brought or imported as aforesaid, to be sued for and recovered by action of debt in any court of the United States—one-half thereof to the use of the United States, the other half to any person or persons prosecuting for the penalty; and in any action instituted for the recovery of the penalty aforesaid, the person or persons sued may be held to special bail: *Provided always*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the admission of Indians."

It will be seen that Congress, by this act, undertook to co-operate with those States which, by State legislation, had interposed to prevent the importation of negroes into this country. At that time the constitutional prohibition to which

I have before referred, restrained Congress from the exercise of the absolute power of prohibiting such importation. The States, however, being under no such restraint, had in several instances adopted measures of their own: and the act of 1803 shows the promptness of the General Government in exercising whatever power it possessed in furtherance of the object. The language of this act is important in another view. It will be observed that its object is to prevent the importation into the United States of "any negro, mulatto, or other person of color, not being a native, a citizen, or registered seaman of the United States, or seamen natives of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope." It is not confined to slaves or negroes bound to labor, but contemplates the exclusion, in the broadest terms, of all such persons, without regard to the character in which they may be brought. It excludes free persons as well as slaves and persons bound to labor or service. The only limitation in the act is, that it is confined to such persons as are prevented by the laws of any of the States from being imported into such States. At that time there existed laws of some of the States, not only prohibiting the introduction of negro slaves, but also free negroes. Indeed the policy of the slaveholding States has always been opposed to the increase of its free negro population; and it is proper here to remark that at the present time that policy is more earnestly sustained in those States than at any previous period of their history.

After this reference to the laws on the subject it is hardly necessary to repeat that if the application of Messrs. Lafite and Co. contemplates the introduction of negroes into the United States from Africa,

either in the character of slaves or as apprentices bound to service or labor, it is clearly in violation of both the letter and spirit of the law, and cannot be granted.

The form of the application made by Messrs. Lafitte & Co. would seem to contemplate the introduction into the United States of negroes from Africa, entitled, on their arrival, to all the rights and privileges of free-men. The proposition, upon its face, is so absurd that it is hardly worthy of serious refutation. Messrs. Lafitte & Co. ask us to believe that their vessel, fitted out in the port of Charleston, South Carolina, is going upon a voyage to Africa to bring to some port in the United States a cargo of free negroes. The port to which the vessel expects to return is not indicated. It cannot be the one from which it sails, nor any other port in the State of South Carolina, as the introduction of free negroes into that State is wisely prohibited by stringent laws and heavy penalties. It cannot be the port of any other slaveholding State, as similar laws in each of those States alike forbid it. The reason for such laws is so manifest that I do not feel called upon either to produce the evidence of their existence or to justify the policy which led to their adoption. It is sufficient to know that the public mind of that section of the Union is not more cordially agreed upon any one subject than upon the propriety and necessity of prohibiting, as far as possible, an increase of the free negro population; and hence the laws to which I refer, prohibiting their importation from any place. Can it be that Messrs. Lafitte & Co. propose to return, with their cargo of free negroes, to a port in some of the non-slaveholding States? I am not aware of a single State where these new-comers would receive a

tolerant much less a cordial welcome; whilst, by stringent laws and constitutional provisions, some of them have provided for their unconditional exclusion.

Looking beyond the legislation which has been had on the subject by the General Government, and both the slaveholding and the non-slaveholding States, I may be permitted to refer, in this connexion, to the various, repeated, and earnest efforts which have been made in every section of the Union to provide for the removal from our midst of this most unfortunate class.—However variant the motives which have induced these efforts with different persons, in different sections of the country, they all exhibit an earnest desire to diminish rather than increase the free negro population. This public opinion, thus manifested in every form, is familiar to every one, and it would be doing great injustice to the intelligence of Messrs. Lafitte & Co. to suppose that they alone were ignorant of it. Where, then, do they propose to land their cargo of free negroes? What is the motive which induces the enterprise? It cannot be the profits of the voyage. There are no African emigrants seeking a passage to this country; and, if there were, they have no means of remunerating Messrs. Lafitte & Co. for bringing them. The motive cannot be mere philanthropy, for it would confer no benefit upon these negroes to bring them to our shores, where, if permitted to land at all, it would only be to occupy our pest-houses, hospitals, and prisons. To believe, under the circumstances, that there is a *bona fide* purpose on the part of Messrs. Lafitte & Co. to bring African emigrants to this country to enjoy the rights and privileges of free-men, would require an amount of credulity that would justly subject

[November,

the person so believing to the charge of mental imbecility. The conviction is irresistible, that the object of the proposed enterprise is to bring these "African emigrants" into the country with the view either of making slaves of them or of holding them to service or labor. If so, it is an attempt to evade the laws of the country on the subject of African importation, to which I have called your attention. Ordinarily it would be an unsafe rule for a public officer to act upon the suspicion of a purpose on the part of another to

violate the laws of the country; but in this case it is put so clearly beyond the reach of doubt that I think that you not only can, but that you are in duty bound to act upon the presumption that it is the intention of Messrs. Lafitte & Co. to evade the laws of the United States, and you should accordingly refuse their vessel the clearance asked for.

I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury

Wm. F. Colcock, Esq.,
Collector of Customs, Charleston.

Horrors of the Slave Trade.

VISIT TO A DISMANTLED SHIP.

A letter from the U. S. Frigate *Powhatan*, dated at Jamestown, St. Helena, February 1st, 1858, appeared some time since in the New York Journal of Commerce. The writer says:

"I have just witnessed a sight, which may my eyes never behold again—a SLAVER! I climbed up its side; I walked its decks; I went into the hold; I sat down upon the planks where human beings like myself and mine—men, women and children, had sat a short time before, but manacled and fettered; and, where they had sighed, sickened, and many had died, and then been thrown into the deep,—without prayer, without coffin, and without shroud, just as dogs, when dead, are tossed into the deep. But all was silent now; not a living form was seen; not a sigh was heard; not a tear was shed; while fancy, left free to do its work, filled the slave-deck with groans, skeletons, corpses, and death. Here and there I picked up a rude article of wood, whittled into some shape like a comb or spoon, by the wretched prisoners, or a piece

of their manacles and chains, or a tool of steel or iron used in fastening and remaking their manacles and fetters; while the whole scene seemed to be made present and living by the fragment of a shell which had been fired into the slaver by the British armed steamer which captured it. I walked, and sat, and mused, and then rose, and walked, and mused again, unable to realize where I was, and what I saw. I had read of slaves, and the middle passage, in my boyhood, the verses of Cowper were burnt into my memory, and rang in my ears, and tears would flow for scenes of imagined grief. But here was the reality! I was standing in the midst of all its horrors. It was no phantom I saw; the infernal reality was before me, living, moving, palpable; I saw it; I touched it; I stood upon it; I descended into its pit of the blackness of darkness; and more truly than Jonah 'from the belly of hell cried unto the Lord.' * * *

Gloom and silence reigned around it. All the vessels in the harbor seemed to shun it as a plague-spot, and anchored at a distance; and when the flags of all nations gayly

flaunted upon the breeze, no colors disported from this sullen, dismal keel. Death reigned ! and as much by day as by night. The mystery was solved, when upon inquiry I was told it was a *slaver* recently captured on the coast of Africa, and *proh pudor!* an *American* slaver, and worse still, a *Connecticut* slaver !

" The slaver is a brigantine, and was built about four years ago in New London, Connecticut. It was admirably constructed for speed, being something less than 150 feet in length, by less than thirty in width, and having a measurement of 220 tons. The hold was entirely empty.

The hold had been floored from stem to stern, though the flooring was now removed, and not a trace of it was to be seen. Thus the hold is about equally divided horizontally, the upper division being the *slave deck*, which is not above four feet and a half high. The gangway leading to the slave deck is the only aperture for light and air, and even this is in part defeated in its object by the heavy iron grating which is thrown over it to prevent the escape of the slaves in case of mutiny, and which is never removed except when a gang of slaves is taken up for air and washing. Thus the wretches who carry on this detestable traffic, seem to desire to chain Heaven's free and sweet bounties as well as human limbs. Nothing can be imagined more dismal than this dreary, empty hold, a great cavern now, and once had been a tomb, full of dead men's bodies if not bones, and all manner of uncleanness. I have been in old and venerated tombs, but none so horrible as this, which had been the great *sarcophagus* of six hundred living human beings. It was frightful to look ; it was frightful to listen ; my own voice and tread almost startled me,

seeming to echo the sighs and dying groans of the poor creatures who had been half-suffocated here, or who had sickened and died here ; and I hurried up from this *inferno* which men had built for their unoffending fellows. * * *

" To locate *six hundred and fifty Africans* within the space afforded by the slave-deck of so small a vessel, required the utmost compression and compactness compatible with life, and had not so large a portion been mere children, they could not have been stowed away. I was told the following method was employed to economize space. The Africans were placed in rows, face to face, lengthwise of the deck, and each one running one leg between the legs of the one sitting opposite. Another row was placed back to back against the exterior row first seated, and thus the whole deck was almost a solid mass of living human flesh. To keep them still and powerless, and prevent insurrection, a ring was put on one ankle, to which an iron bar was attached which reached up to the body, and to which the manacles were fastened which were put on their wrists. Thus situated, row facing row, and legs interlaced with legs, a long iron bar ran along over the line of ankles, to which the irons were attached which fastened the feet. Thus nearly all motion of the body and exercise of the limbs was impossible, men in the stocks having as much liberty as they had, with all the advantages of light and air. Even for a day, such a position would be painful and almost intolerable ; what then a passage from continent to continent, over the broad Atlantic, amidst storms and calms, and suffocation, and occupying often *sixty days* and more !

" Occasionally the slaves are taken on deck in gangs, where they may

breathe the pure air a short time, and where they are washed by having buckets of salt water thrown upon them, their fetters and manacles yet remaining on them, and the salt water washing the sores and raw flesh which their sitting position on the hard planks, their pressing against each other, together with the galling irons, have made."

ANOTHER SLAVER.

"The scuttling of a New York slave ship, off the east end of Long Island, and the subsequent arrest of six of her crew, including the mate, contributes to keep alive the excitement on the subject of the slave trade, which was raised by the arrival of a human cargo at Charleston. This slaver, named the *Haidee*, which was sunk on the 18th of September, was a small, sharp, rakish clipper, built at Providence in 1853. She was fitted out for her last voyage at New York, taking on board flour, beef, rum, tobacco, and cotton cloth, and was cleared from that port January 7, 1858, for Gibraltar and a market. The next seen of her was on the morning of the 18th ultimo, when the keeper of the lighthouse upon Montauk Point, on going up to extinguish the light, observed a square-rigged vessel in the southern offing, lying off and on. An hour afterwards the vessel had disappeared, and two boats' crews came ashore through the surf, and made their way to the village of Sag Harbor, from whence, after the display of doubloons and Spanish coin in profusion, they scattered. Those that have remained within reach are now in custody.

"From their confessions, as well as by intelligence received from Havana, it is known that the sunken vessel was the *Haidee*, and that since she left New York she has landed a cargo of slaves in the Bay of Cárdenas. This transaction took place without interference on the part of the Spanish authorities, and the unhappy negroes were soon distributed to their masters, of course never again to be recovered. The discovery of the *Haidee* by the keeper of the lighthouse at Montauk Point, the arrest of a portion of her crew, and the attention thus attracted to the violation of her treaty obligations for the suppression of the slave trade by Spain, may possibly stir up the officials in Cuba to make some inquiries as to the parties guilty of importing the negroes landed from this vessel. A correspondent of the New York Times says that Zulneta, the great Cuban slave-trader, was the owner of vessel and cargo, and it was rumored, but with little probability, that he would be arrested. It was also reported that several persons, holding high position under Government, were part owners, though this may be a scandal."

King, one of the crew of the above vessel, swore that "a cargo of negroes, consisting of 1,333 or 1,334 in number, was brought on board as slaves," from a port of Africa, and that the ship sailed the same day and went directly to the Island of Cuba, and that (200 having died on the voyage,) those surviving were landed near Cárdenas.

Cultivation of Cotton in Africa.

We are indebted to the kindness of our intelligent and philanthropic friend, BENJAMIN COATES, Esq., of

Philadelphia, for his pamphlet on this subject, which comprises much valuable information. Mr. Coates

has been for many years, and at all times, a warm and generous friend to Liberia, though he cherishes earnestly the views of the Society of Friends (to which he belongs) on the subject of slavery and emancipation. Very encouraging statements from English manufacturers and from members of the British Parliament, are introduced into the appendix, showing that prospects are opening of a valuable, perhaps extensive culture of cotton in Africa. Want of space prevents our copying into the present number more than the following brief extracts :

" It is, however, not desirable that a very large proportion of our colored population should at once emigrate to Africa, much less a general exodus; but if only fifty thousand of the intelligent and educated should be induced to settle there within the next ten years, what might they not accomplish? This would be but *one-tenth* of the free colored population of the United States, and only equal to about one per cent. per annum. Yet this number, distributed in some eight or ten different settlements along the coast, would form the nucleus of probably as many independent States, hereafter to form a confederacy similar to our own; and, as they would naturally adopt republican principles, might in less than half a century show a more important destiny for this race, in the civilization and christianization of Africa, and perform a more important part in the great work of the world's redemption, than many of their best friends have ever anticipated. If it should be objected that this calculation is *not entirely within the bounds*

of moderation, that the effects hoped for are too great for the means employed, we have only to look at our own country to see the vast results of colonization from small beginnings; or to realize what has been accomplished within the last few years in California and Australia; and then ask ourselves if the colored man has not greater inducements, at this time, to emigrate to Africa, than our forefathers had, in their day, to emigrate to America? And is the prospect of gain, that yearly takes so many thousands to the gold fields of California and Australia, to be compared with the great advantages accruing to the enterprising emigrant to Western Africa?

" If any one doubts the capability of colored men to overcome difficulties in establishing for themselves an independent government, and in spreading the blessings of civilization and christianity among savage people, he has only to cast his eyes on Liberia to see what has been achieved by a few thousand of the same class, a large majority of whom were emancipated slaves, without any previous education or the least experience in the great work they have so successfully accomplished. Liberia has fully established the capacity of the African race for self-government and the highest degree of civilization, and she stands at this moment as the most successful example of colonization to be found in the annals of history.

" There we see an independent government, formed on strictly republican principles, modelled after our own in all respects, *slavery excepted*, established and creditably conducted by less than ten thousand of the African race, most of them from a state of bondage in America, and of whom not one hundred ever had an education in this country such as is to be obtained in our best

schools. They were aided, indeed, in the first instance, by the labors of a few of the self-denying and devoted friends of this oppressed people, among whom the names of Ashmun and Buchanan should be held in grateful remembrance by every true-hearted black man in Africa or America.

"Liberia is now enjoying a high degree of prosperity, and occupies an honored and most respectable position among the civilized governments of the world, her sovereignty and independence having been acknowledged by Great Britain, France, Prussia, Belgium, Brazil, Hamburg, Labec, Bremen, and Portugal, with all of whom she interchanges national civilities, and a mutually lucrative trade; her flag and her revenue laws are respected by the vessels of all nations, and her citizens meet on equal terms those from Europe or America who visit her ports in pursuit of commerce, or in the employment of their respective countries. On the two occasions when her chief magistrate visited Europe, he was received with distinguished consideration by the nobility and crowned heads, and by the virtuous of other classes of the most powerful and most refined nations of the Eastern Continent.—Liberia, however, still needs the sympathy and aid of her friends in extending the benefits of education among her growing population, as both the government and people are far from a state of affluence. Yet, they have overcome most of the difficulties incident to the settlement of a new country, especially that great obstacle, the slave trade, with which they had to contend for many years, and which resisted them with all its power, constantly inciting the natives to oppose their friendly and peaceful advances. The slave trade is now entirely destroyed, not only

within their own borders, but it is prohibited in *all* their treaties with the native kings who have sought their friendship. The Liberians have otherwise exerted a healthful influence in the suppression of wars between the different tribes with whom they have had intercourse.

* * * * *

"In this view of the case, our first and great duty would seem to be, to raise the colored man from his present state, infuse into him a noble ambition to occupy a more elevated position in the world, and to qualify him to act the part which appears to be so clearly marked out for him in this age of progress.

"With a liberal education, it is not to be supposed that he will fail to recognize the responsibility resting on him, and learn to know that it is on his own exertions he must mainly depend to become a useful and respected member of society; he will then see the importance of immediate action, to secure for himself and his children some of the advantages that the Continent of Africa offers to the enterprising emigrants who seek her shores; and having thus secured a home for themselves, and laid the foundation of an extensive Christian empire, will soon be able to receive all of their brethren whose interest or adventurous spirit may lead them to seek a new abode from under the dominion of 'the proud and imperious Saxon,' where their labor will be estimated at its proper value. Our duty, however, will be but partially performed to a long-neglected portion of our brethren, by freeing them from actual bondage, without, at the same time, making provision for their future welfare."

Many important questions are suggested by the recommendation of the writer, for the formation of a

Society to promote African Civilization, though we concur in all that can be said to arouse the American people to advance that great work of philanthropy by the best means that can be devised, and believe that

among these the agency and influence of the Republic of Liberia will be deemed essential if not pre-eminent. In movements to such an end, there should be harmony, and if possible, unity.

From Ohio.

THE respected and able Agent of this Society, Rev. E. G. NICHOLSON, of Hamilton, Ohio, writes under date of October 14, 1858:

"Find enclosed a draft for one hundred dollars. I regret it is not larger, but August and September were spent in visiting conferences and ministerial assemblies, in speaking to those bodies on Colonization, and in getting them to adopt resolutions favorable to our enterprise. No collections were attempted on these occasions, and this is why no returns have been made. The clergy have given us a polite hearing every where; and the conferences of the M. E. Church have in no instance failed to adopt resolutions commending us and our cause to the sympathy, confidence and liberal support of the citizens and churches of the West. The people receive us with some consideration, and I think we are getting firm footing in their hearts.

"During the present month, I have visited Hillsboro, West Liberty and Bellefontaine; preached in the churches, called upon the citizens and obtained some material aid.

"In addition to the amount reported from Hillsborough, Mr. —— subscribed one hundred dollars, which he will pay in eight or ten months. Another gentleman of property will do likewise.

"Our friend, J. H. Bumgarner,

of Highland County, who is already known to you, died during the year. His estate will yield about \$13,500. Ten thousand dollars go to legatees; the residue he gives to our Society, which will amount to about three thousand five hundred dollars—(\$3,500.) I have examined the will and visited the executor. He thinks he will be able to close up the estate in the course of one year.

"Mr. Bumgarner was an estimable member of the M. E. Church, and one of the five gentlemen of fortune who promised to remember us. He has done so, and as the others are men of reliable goodness, I am persuaded that they will not forget their pledge.

"I hoped to secure some good colored people from Ohio for the November Expedition, and for this purpose have visited the African camps in Brown County, Guinea, in Belmont County, and the colored people about Boston, in Highland County. They are all ill at ease. Their condition is one of almost hopeless depression. To most of them the idea of colonization is repugnant. A few, however, of the more steady and intelligent, are disposed to look towards Liberia as their future home; but they are disinclined to emigrate immediately. They hope to be able to dispose of their lands the coming year, and then they say they will have something in hand to begin with upon reaching Africa."

Passengers by the Return of the M. C. Stevens.

THE Maryland Colonization Journal gives a list of the persons who returned in this ship, with some facts showing the reasons that induced them to visit the United States. We condense the statement. The following is the list:— Rev. Francis Burns, John H. M. Harris, Wm. Foster, S. Eilbeck, W. W. Davis, J. D. Johnson and family, John White, Issac Johnson, Titus Brown, (a small boy,) Mrs. Nancy Harris, Mrs. Margaret Mitchell.

"Rev. Francis Burns returns for ordination as Bishop of the M. E. Church. Messrs. Foster and Eilbeck are young men who have studied medicine under Dr. James Smith, of Liberia, and now go to attend upon medical lectures in Massachusetts or Vermont.

"Mr. J. D. Johnson, a merchant of Monrovia, visits this country to purchase a small vessel for his coasting business. His wife returned for the benefit of her health, and will again embark with him in the new vessel; while the children, five in number, are to be placed in a northern school.

"W. W. Davis returns for ordination, as a Presbyterian minister; having been educated at the Alexander High School, in Monrovia.

"Mr. Isaac Johnson, an old foggy Liberian, originally from Charleston, came on private business, about which he keeps most profoundly quiet, and we only know that he intends going back in the ship.

"John White went from Richmond last fall, was landed at Cape Mount, but, though rather pleased with the country, did not like it sufficiently well to remain, especial-

ly without funds; he having generously paid out \$300 to insure his brother's freedom. He may or may not return. His wife and child remain to be sent for.

"John H. M. Harris is a supercargo in the employ of an American house.

"Mrs. Nancy Harris is a poor widow, whose husband died while on a visit to this country last year. Her health is very feeble, and having no relatives in Liberia, she came over to live or die at her father's, (a free colored man,) in North Carolina.

"The last named, Mrs. Margaret Mitchell, a very worthy woman, was liberated some years ago, by a benevolent gentleman of Savannah, that she might accompany her husband to Liberia. They settled at Sinou in comfort. Mitchell worked his passage to New York, and by the kindness of friends succeeded in raising a sum of money (we think over \$2,000) for the purchase of his children. Afterwards he met a young woman reported to possess from \$2,000 to \$3,000, forgot his duty and married her. Since then he has done nothing for his former wife. She, forsaken, over sixty years old, and burdened with his former debts, wrote to her former master to be taken back on terms, and he kindly consented to pay her expenses, but assured her she could only be a slave in Georgia. On her arrival at Baltimore, the gentleman's agent here stepped forward to pay her passage and take charge of her; but the desire to return to Georgia had evaporated, and some newly made colored friends paid her passage. Her former master, who had been written to, declined taking any further action in the matter. His answer was worthy of him, be-

ing simply that he had no other desire than to consult her comfort. We do not yet know if she intends going North in search of her runaway husband.

"It should be remarked here, that the funds subscribed for the purchase of Mitchell's children, have been secured, and will be used for that purpose."

Death of the Hon. Aaron Ogden Dayton.

THE decease of this distinguished and excellent man, occurred in Philadelphia on the 8th of last month, to the profound sorrow of a large circle of friends and of the country, which had long appreciated his eminent virtues in private and public. Mr. DAYTON was a native of New Jersey, for several years well known for his ability and eloquence at the Bar in the city of New York; but for the last twenty years held the office of Auditor in the Navy Department, to which in 1838 he was appointed by Mr. Van Buren.

Acute in intellect, decided in opinion, ready but brief in speech, and prompt in action, his honor was without stain as his integrity was above suspicion. His love for science was intense, while he cultivated and cherished a taste, naturally just and delicate, for the Fine Arts.

For fourteen years as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society,—elected to that position in January, 1844,—he dedicated much thought and time to the interests and advancement of this institution. At a meeting of this Committee, on the 15th of October, the following pre-

amble and resolutions were submitted by the Corresponding Secretary, and unanimously adopted:

"Almighty God having been pleased, since the last meeting of this Committee, to remove from life one of its members, justly entitled to the respect and affection of all who knew him:

"*Resolved*, That in the sudden decease of the Hon. A. O. DAYTON, the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society have experienced the loss of an associate and friend, distinguished by the benevolence of his disposition, the force of his intellect, by prudence, wisdom, and decision in counsel, and energy in action.

"*Resolved*, That the members of this Committee, long and intimately acquainted with the great value of the services, cheerfully rendered, to Religion and Humanity, by their deceased friend, will cherish his memory and rejoice, if but imperfectly, to copy his bright example—knowing that they also must soon pass beyond human opinion to the judgment of an Unerring Tribunal.

"*Resolved*, That this Committee, with their fellow citizens generally, mourn, in the death of Mr. DAYTON, the loss of a public man of great worth and usefulness in stations of high trust and responsibility, which he long filled with fidelity and honor.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the family of our deceased friend, with expressions of sympathy and condolence, and published in the African Repository."

Intelligence.

EMIGRATION TO LIBERIA.

One or two legal decisions in the South against the freedom of choice of such proprietors of slaves as desire to bestow upon them freedom in Liberia, retard the progress of this Society; and we regret to find christian and philanthropic men expressing opinions adapted to repress the purest and best feelings of an enlarged benevolence. But good men often err, they are subject to great delusions; but they seldom persevere and abide in the wrong. The most earnest and generous benefactors of this Society have, from its origin, been found in the Southern States. We believe their numbers are undiminished; and we ask, Can those masters, who may desire to confer freedom on their slaves on condition of their settlement in Liberia, be wisely restrained from the execution of their purpose by will or their own personal agency? Is the master, who may deem such course in his own special case to be but the fulfilment of the royal law according to the Scriptures, to be denied liberty of action by some higher law of imagined public expediency? Is what he views as one of his most sacred and cherished rights, to be annulled? Are his deepest and noblest moral sentiments, and most solemn religious convictions; his most precious liberty of conduct towards those by Providence especially entrusted to his care, to be restrained? Has Africa herself no claims upon our benevolence? and is Liberia no promised token and assurance of the Divine Providence to the children of Africa? HE is its safe-guard "who turneth the wilderness into a standing water and the dry ground into water springs, and there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they prepare a city for habitation. The righteous shall see it and rejoice, and all iniquity shall shut her mouth. Whoso is wise will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord."

LECTURES ON CENTRAL AFRICA.

THE REV. T. J. BOWEN, so well known by his missionary labors in Yoruba, and by his very interesting and instructive book on Central Africa, has completed a

course of three lectures, delivered at the request of many prominent clergymen and laymen in the city of New York. Mr. Bowen is an ardent friend to African Colonization and civilization, and very desirous that measures should be adopted by the U. S. Government for an exploration of the Niger, and the establishment of commercial relations, through that river, with the great nations of Central Africa. In his concluding lecture Mr. Bowen said:

"In Africa was the true spot to work for the annihilation of the [slave] trade. In one instance the armed natives had done more for its abolition in two months than the English fleet had in as many years. There are innumerable reasons connected with the trade of Africa why she should be civilized. Her productions were vast—palm oil, salt, cotton, silk, gold, indigo, gum, and other valuable articles of importation. The river Niger was capable of navigation, he had no doubt, over its whole length, which was hundreds of miles long. He believed our Mississippi steamers might run over it with great success. England had turned her attention to the trade there, and the commerce afforded them doubly repaid her efforts; but while she had been doing this, she had been exploring, and thereby putting herself on the track of further wealth and influence. At the mouth of the Niger there was a magnificent field for the palm oil trade; up further, the cotton district; further still, the gum forests; and far up, near the mountains, the gold regions—a second California. Africa was a fine country, and no one who ever lived there and became acquainted with her resources, and came away, but what desired to live there. He believed that the country which shall send out the necessary force, with steamers, to open the trade there, would be repaid in a marvellous manner. Towns, cities and villages would spring up, and great good be done. The speaker then concluded; when the Rev. Dr. Ferris, after a few remarks, offered a series of complimentary resolutions to Mr. Bowen, which were unanimously adopted."

THE "Mary C. Stevens" sails this day from Baltimore for Liberia, with some fifty emigrants; seventeen Missionaries and others in the cabin.

[From the Colonization Herald.]

THE AFRICAN SQUADRONS.

The following tabular statements of the comparative mortality of the several squadrons of the United States for the year specified, for which we are indebted to Dr. W. Whelan, the able and efficient chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington City, show that stationed on the African coast is one of the healthiest.

These returns prove that the American squadron on the African sea-board ranks second on the score of mortality, the Brazil fleet alone preceding it. The following is the order and rate of per-centage, viz.—Brazil, 1.28; African, 1.53; Pacific, 1.87; Mediterranean, 2.66; Home, 2.97; and the East India, 8.08. Several years ago, the mortality in the British African squadron was but one and a half per cent., or about the same as in the American.

Return for the years 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848.

Squadrons.	1845	1846	1847	1848	Average ratio of mortality.
Home.....	39	66	3.84	1.78	82
Pacific.....	54	63	1.32	84	74
Brazil.....	39	1.72	93	68	71
Mediterr'n.....	.87		44	45	53
East India.....	1.26	4.82	6.66	25	79
Africa.....	79	1.06	1.10	50	78

For the year 1855.

Squadrons.	Persons	Deaths	Average ratio of mortality.
Home.....	924	16	1.73
Pacific	779	4	51
Mediterranean.....	555	10	1.04
Brazil.....	745	2	27
East India.....	767	26	3.39
Africa.....	544	2	36

For the year 1856.

Home.....	962	4	42
Pacific.....	965	6	62
Mediterr'n.....	1100	12	1.09
Brazil.....	652	2	30
East India.....	641	25	3.90
Africa.....	510	2	39

AGENCY FOR RECAPTURED AFRICANS.

The Rev. JOHN SETS, Special Agent of the American Colonization Society for Indiana and Illinois, has been appointed by the President to the important post of Agent for Recaptured Africans on the Coast of Africa. He is expected to sail in the M. C. Stevens. His services to the Missionary and Colonization cause in Liberia are well known. He now embarks the seventh time for Africa, in the service of Humanity and Religion.

THE DUTCH CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The extent of country over which the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa spreads, is 900 miles in one direction and 300 in another. Over this territory the English Government maintains political jurisdiction—excepting, however, two considerable districts, known as the Yellow and Orange River Republics. The independence of these Republics has been recognized by England, and the inhabitants are in the undisturbed possession of their political and religious rights. The Dutch ministers in the Yellow River Republic are sustained on the voluntary principle, but compose an integral part of the Synod of South Africa. The salaries of all the other ministers are paid by the British Government. The salary of each minister is \$1,000 per annum, together with a parsonage. In Cape Town, however, \$500 per year is added to the salaries, in consequence of the greater cost of living. The ministers of the Synod—about forty in number—are divided into eight "rings," or classes, which meet annually. The Synod, which is a Convention of all the ministers, assembles but once in five years.

Plans are on foot for the establishment of a College in South Africa, by means of which it is hoped that the Dutch Church there may supply itself with a native evangelical ministry. The difficulty experienced in drawing ministers there, renders the erection of a College necessary to the prosperity of the Dutch churches in South Africa.—*Christian Mirror.*

LETTERS have been received, by way of England, from President BENSON, dated September 14th, enclosing official documents showing the entire falsehood of any and all charges made against the Government of Liberia in regard to the slave trade. The Rev. G. L. SEYMOUR had been met by a Mandingo man, six weeks before, within three days' travel of the capital of the Mandingo Country. Farmers were doing well, supplies of domestic provisions were abundant. A supply of paper had been ordered from England for commencing the publication, in December, of the Liberia Herald.

Will the friends of this Society observe the smallness of its receipts without regret, and strong resolutions to increase them?

Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

From the 20th of September to the 20th of October, 1858.

OHIO.



